

**107 Session of the IOM Council**

**Statement of The Arab Republic of Egypt**

**by**

**H.E. Ambassador Amr Ramadan**

**Permanent Representative of Egypt**

**Agenda Item: General Debate**

**6 December, 2016**

**Geneva**

Thank you Mr. Chairman

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as chairman of the Council, and wish you success in your mission. And also thank H.E. Ambassador Muylle for his efforts as chairman of the previous session of the council. We welcome the new member “Kingdom of Tonga” to join IOM family.

Egypt aligns itself with the Statement of the African Group presented by Ghana, and appreciates the efforts exerted through the past year by the Director General and his dedicated team in leading the organization. We commend the DG’s report which reflected on the state of Migration in our world today, the role of the organization that evolved over the past 65 years through establishing International standards and providing guidance and principles for action in the field of migration, protecting the rights of all migrants and realizing their potential in development, its efforts to reduce the incidence and impact of irregular migration, addressing the mobility dimension of migration crises through emergency situations, crisis preparedness and assistance.

**Mr,Chairman**

Egypt expresses its dedication to the strong partnership and close cooperation with IOM over the past years specially since the establishment of the regional office in Cairo in 1991 which provides policy, technical support to IOM offices in 14 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. We commend the cooperation in raising awareness, enhancing

capacity, knowledge and dialogue on migration management with the Egyptian authorities and the Egyptian National Committee for combating and preventing illegal migration, and supporting regional initiatives on migration including the EU-Horn of Africa migration route initiative (Khartoum Process)

Mr Chairman,

We welcome the Agreement on the relationship between the international organization for migration and the United Nations by which IOM became a part of the UN system as related organization, and recognize in the regard the work done through the following meetings of the working group in October and November 2016 to discuss the potential role of the organization in developing a Global Compact for safe, regular and orderly Migration in 2018, We commend the director general commitment to transparency, and his efforts to ensure that member states are kept informed of relevant issues and to avoid any duplication with the work of the co-facilitators of this process.

Guided by its vast expertise and experience in migration issues, now for 65 years, we expect expansion in the role and functions of the organization in the next years in implementing different initiatives that included migration as main element such as Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, Addis Ababa action plan, and 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman

International migration is a global phenomenon that involves economic, social, political, legal and cultural dimensions, Egypt has always pointed to the need to engage in a comprehensive dialogue and cooperation aiming at addressing irregular migration, mixed migration and human trafficking in the right context. We rely on the Organization to continue its message for promoting the role of migrants in the social and economic fields, and the importance of tackling root causes of the migration flows from the south to north without putting extra burden on countries of origin and transit countries.

The humanitarian crisis in the Middle East resulted in millions of refugees and migrants where neighboring countries took the burden of hosting them. It is our conviction that collective work should be done in order to face the serious challenges posed by those big flows. We believe that sustainable economic growth, promoting proper environment for productive employment and decent work, implementing international commitments to support the development efforts in countries of origin and transit, as well as technical support for developing countries to contribute to their development strategies to face such challenges are possible elements to help putting us on the right path to face this problem.

At the end Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate my country's support and dedication to work constructively on these issues in order to achieve our ultimate goal which is preserving Human Dignity.

Thank you.